



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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FREDERICK COUNTY SUPPORTS TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT

FREDERICK, MD -- Frederick County Government values open and transparent government and believes that citizens have a right to know what the government is doing. Citizens deserve to have elected officials tell them the truth and share information honestly and fairly. Frederick County Government values the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of the press provided for in our country's Constitution. It is a vital part of our democratic process.

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner commented, "I will work hard to ensure open and transparent government in Frederick County and that citizens have the ability to participate to help shape the future of our community."

County Council President Bud Otis agrees. "We must have respectful communication and dealings with the public and the press. That is our intended policy. It is necessary for the good of the public interest to have an open and civil government," he said.

In addition, County Council Member Kirby Delauter, District 5, issued the following statement:

"The first amendment is alive and well in Frederick County. As a public figure working to maintain and improve the county, it can be very frustrating to feel misrepresented or misinterpreted by a local media outlet.

"Over my career I have fired off my fair share of angry e-mails, which in hindsight I wish I hadn't. I can't think of one that had a positive effect. Usually, they only served to escalate the conflict. I thought I had long ago learned the lesson of waiting 24 hours before I hit the send key, but apparently I didn't learn that lesson as well as I should have.

"Of course, as I am an elected official, the *Frederick News-Post* has the right to use my name in any article related to the running of the county -- that comes with the job. So yes, my statement to the *Frederick News-Post* regarding the use of my name was wrong and inappropriate. I'm not afraid to admit when I'm wrong.

"I got elected to serve all the citizens of northern Frederick County, Democrats as well as Republicans. I look forward to the local papers covering my effort in that regard."

As the new charter government, Frederick County will foster an environment of trust, mutual respect, and frequent and timely communication.

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